SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1905



SHERLOCK HOLMES--Adventure of the Beryl Coronet.

By Sir A. Conan Doyle.

OLMES," said I, as I stood one me that the money should be paid at morning in our how window one? morning in our bow-window, looking down the street, "here is a madman coming along. He seems rather sad that his relatives should allow him to come out alone."

My friend rose lazily from his armchair and stood with his hands in the pockets of his dressing gown, looking over my shoulder. It was a bright, crisp February morning, and the snow of the day before still lay deep upon the ground, shimmering brightly in the wintry sun. Down the center of Baker street it had been ploughed into a brown, crumbly band by the traffic, but at either side and on the heaped-up edges of the footpaths it still lay as white as when it fell. The gray pave-ment had beeen cleaned and scraped, was still dangerously slippery, that there were fewer passengers than usual. Indeed, from the direction of the Metropolitan station no one was coming save the single gentleman whose eccentric conduct had drawn my

He was a man of about 50, tall, portly and imposing, with a massive, strongly marked face and a commanding figure. He was dressed in a som-bre yet rich style in black frock coat, shining hat, neat brown gaiters and well cut pearl gray trousers. Yet his actions were in absurd contrast to the dignity of his dress and features, for was running hard, with occasional littile springs such as a weary man gives who is little accustomed to set any tax upon his legs. As he ran he jerked his hands up and down, wag-gled his head and writhed his face into the most extraordinary contor-

"What on earth can be the matter with him?" I asked. "He is looking up at the numbers of the houses."
"I believe that he is coming here," said Holmes, rubbing his hands, "Here?"

'Yes; I rather think he is coming to consult me professionany. I think that I recognize the symptoms. Ha!
Did I not tell you?" As he spoke the
man, puffing and blowing, rushed at
our door and pulled at our bell until
the whole house resounded with the
clanging

A few moments later he was in our room, still puffing, still gestieulating, but with so fixed a look of grief and despair in his eyes that our smiles were turned in an instant to horror and pity. For a while he could not get his words out, but swayed his body and plucked at his hair like one who been driven to the extreme limits the wall with such force that we both

"You have come to me to tell your story, have you not?" said he. "You are fatigued with your haste. Pray wait until you have recovered yourself, and then I shall be most happy to look into any little problem which you may submit to me."

The man sat for a minute or more leave so precious a thing in the office behind me. Bankers' safes had been forced before now, and why should not mine be? If so, how terrible would be the position in which I should find myself! I determined, therefore, that for the

trouble," responded Holmes. two coming together in so frightful a form have been enough to shake my very noblest in the land may suffer unless some way be found out of this horrible affair '

of Holder & Stevenson, of Threadneedle street." The name was indeed well known to

could have happened, then, to bring one of the foremost citizens of Lon-don to this most pitiable pass? We

came to Baker street by the Underground, and hurried from there on foot, he should succeed me in my business than the should succeed me in my business that the should succeed me in my business than the should succeed me in my business than the should succeed me in my business that the should succeed me in my business that the should be should succeed me in my business that the should be should be should b for the cabs go slowly through the That is why I was so out of breath, for I am a man who takes very little exercise. I feel better now, and I will put the facts before you as shortly and yet as clearly as I can.
"It is, of course, well known to you that in a successful banking institution as much depends upon our being able to find remunerative investments our connection and the number of our means of laying out money is in the shape of loans where the security is unimpeachable. We have done a good deal in this direction during the last families to whom we have advanced large sums upon the security of their pictures, libraries or plate.

"Yesterday morning I was seated in my office at the bank when a card was brought in to me by one of the clerks. I started when I saw the name, for it was that of none other thanwell, perhaps even to you I had betname which is a household word blest, most exalted names in England. attempted, when he entered, to say so, plunged at once into business ne air of a man who wishes to hurry quickly through a disagreeable

informed that you are in the habit of Mary, who has a woman's quick inadvancing money.

"The firm does so when the security is good, I answered.

tainly repay what you advance, with that if anyone could have drawn whatever interest you think it right into the right path it would have to charge. But it is very essential to she, and that his marriage might have

'I should be happy to advance it without further parley from my own private purse, said I, were it not that the strain would be rather more than it could bear. If, on the other hand, I am to do it in the name of the firm, then, in justice to my partner, I must insist that, even in your case, every businesslike precaution should be tak-

'I should much prefer to have it so,' said he, raising up a square black morocco case which he had laid beside his chair. 'You have doubtless heard of the Beryl Coronet?'

"One of the most precious possessions of the empire," said I.
"Precisely." He opened the case, and there, imbedded in soft, flesh-colored velvet, lay the magnificent piece of jewelry which he had named. 'There are thirty-nine enormous beryls,' said

'Not at all, I only doubt'—
'The propriety of my leaving it You may set your mind at rest about that. I should not dream of doing so were it not absolutely certain that should be able in four days to reclaim it. It is a pure matter of form. Is the security sufficient?" "'You understand, Mr. Holder, that

I am giving you a strong proof of the confidence which I have in you, founded upon all that I have heard of you. I rely upon you not only to be discreet and to refrain from all gossip upon the and to retrain from an gossip upon the matter, but, above all, to preserve this coronet with every possible precaution, because I need not say that a great public scandal would be caused if any harm were to befail it. Any injury to it would be almost as serious as its complete loss, for there are no beryls in the world to match these, and it would be impossible to replace them I leave it with you, however, with every confidence, and I shall call for it in person on Monday morning."
"Seeing that my client was anxious

to leave, I said no more; but, calling for my cashier, I ordered him to pay over fifty £1,000 notes. When I was alone once more, however, with the precious case lying upon the table in front of me. I could not but think with some misgivings of the immense responsibility which it entailed upon me. of his reason. Then, suddenly springing to his feet, he beat his head against anational possession, a horrible scandal the wall with such force that we both rushed upon him and tore him away to the center of the room. Sherlock Holmes pushed him down into an easy chair, and, sitting beside him, patted his hand and catted with him in the easy, soothing tones which he knew so well how to employ.

"You have come to me to tell your story, have you not?" said he. "You are fatigued with your haste. Pray wait until you have recovered yourself, before now, and why should not mine. would ensue if any misfortune should

The man sat for a minute or more with a heaving chest, fighting against his emotion. Then he passed his hand-kerchief over his brow, set his lips tigt and turned his face toward us.

"No doubt you think me mad?" said

I determined, therefore, that for the next few days I would always carry the case backward and forward with me, so that it might never be really out of my reach. With this intention I called a cab and drove out to my house at Streatham, carrying the jewel e.
"I see that you have had some great rouble," responded Holmes.
"God knows I have!—a trouble which remove to the provide to unseat my reason so and remove to the provide to unseat my reason so and remove to the provide to unseat my reason so and remove to the provide to the "God knows I have!—a trouble which is enough to unseat my reason, so sudden and so terrible is it. Public disgrace I might have faced, although I am a man whose character has never yet borne a stain. Private affliction also is the lot of every man; but the two coming together, in sea frightful who coming together. I have three maid servants, who have been with me a number of who have been with me a number of years, and whose absolute reliability is a form have been enough to shake my very soul. Besides, it is not I alone. Parr, the second waiting maid, has only been in my service a few months She came with an excellent character however, and has always given me sat-"Pray compose yourself, sir," said Holmes, "and let me have a clear account of who you are and what it is that has befallen you."

"My name." answered our visitor, the compose yourself, sir, said has attracted admirers, who have casionally hung about the place. That is the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be the compose yourself, sir, said that has attracted admirers, who have occurred to the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be the compose yourself, sir, said that has attracted admirers, who have occurred to the only drawback which we have a clear account of who you are and what it is the only drawback which we have a clear account of who you are and what it is the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we believe her to be a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have found to her, but we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account of the only drawback which we have a clear account s horrible affair.

'Pray compose yourself, sir," said isfaction. She is a very pretty girl and blmes, "and let me have a clear achias attracted admirers, who have ocher than the same of "My name," answered our visitor, is probably familiar to your ears. I a thoroughly good girl in every way, am Alexander Holder, of the banking the street of the banking and Alexander Holder, of the banking the street of the st

ily itself is so small that it will not take me long to describe it. I am a widower and have an only son. Arthur us as belonging to the senior partner in the second largest private banking Mr. Holmes—a grievous disappoint in the second largest private banking Mr. Holmes—a grievous disappoint concern in the city of London. What ment. I have no doubt that I am my We When my dear wife died I felt that he an- was all I had to love. I could not bear other effort, he braced himself to tell to see the smile fade even for a mo "I feel that time is of value," said nied him a wish. Perhaps it would "that is why I hastened here when police inspector suggested that I been sterner, but I meant it for the

"It was naturally my intention that but he was not of a business turn. He was wild, wayward, and, to speak the truth, I could not trust him in the handling of large sums of money. When he was young he became a member of an aristocratic club, and there, having charming manners, he was soon the intimate of a number of men with long purses and expensive habits. learned to play heavily at cards and to squander money on the turi, until he had again and again to come to me and implore me to give him an advance upon his allowance, that he eight settle his debts of honor. rom the dangerous company which he

was enough to draw him back again.
"And, indeed, I could not wonder that such a man as Sir George Burnwell he has frequently brought him to my house, and I have found myself that I all hardly resist the fascination of its namer. He is older than Arthur,

a man of the world to his finger-tips, one who has been everywhere, seen everything, a brilliant talker, and a ma nof great personal beauty. Yet when I think of him in cold blood, far away from the glamour of his pres-ence, I am convinced from his cynical speech, and the look which I have caught in his eyes, that he is one who should be deeply distrusted. So I think, and so, too, thinks my little

sight into character. "It is absolutely essential to me, said he, 'that I should have £50,000 at once. I could, of course, borrow so triffing a sum ten times over from my friends, but I much prefer to make it a matter of business and to carry wonderful measurements. And now there is only she to be described. She is my nice; but when you brother died five years ago and left her alone in the world I adopted her and have looked upon her ever since as my daughter. She is when you have looked upon her ever since as my daughter. She is my nice; but when you have looked upon her ever since as my daughter. She is my nice; but when you have a looked upon her ever since and have looked upon her ever s my friends, but I much prefer to make it a matter of business and to carry out that business myself. In my position you can readily understand that it is unwise to place one's self under obligations."

"For how long, may I ask, do you want this sum?" I asked.

"Next Monday I have a large sum due to me, and I shall then most certainly repay what you advance, with

changed his whole life; but now, alas: it is too late—forever too late!

"Now, Mr. Holmes, you know the speak to the people who live under my roof, and I shall continue with my miserable story."

"When we were taking coffee in the drawing room that night after dinner I told Arthur and Mary my experience to the told Arthur drawing room that hight after dinner I told Arthur and Mary my experience and of the precious treasure which we had under our roof, suppressing only the name of my client. Lucy Parr, who had brought in the coffee, had, I am sure, left the room; but I cannot swear that the door was closed. Mary and Arthur ware more mark in the state of the core was closed. swear that the door was closed. Mary and Arthur were much interested and wished to see the famous coronet, but I thought it better not to disturb it.

"Where have you put it?" asked Arthur.

"'In my own bureau,'
"'Well, I hope to goodness the house won't be burgled during the night,' he said 'There said.

changed his whole life; but now, alas! | see you trying to tear off another | There are several singular points about | vague theories," cried the banker, im- | I saw you last, but I did not call at

your house in the morning and make my own way in the world.

"You shall leave it in the hands of the pelice!" I cried half mad with grief and rage. 'I shall have this matter probed to the bottom.'

"You shall learn nothing from me,' said he, with a passion such as I should not have thought was in his side the house?"

"Have they are man bent on felony would slam his door so as to wake a household. What did they say, then, of the disappearance of the gems?"

"They are still sounding the planking and probing the furniture in the hope of finding them."

"Have they thought of looking outside the house?"

side the house

been minutely examined."
"Now, my dear sir," said Holmes, "is it not obvious to you now that this

matter really strikes very much deeper than either you or the police were at first inclined to think? It appeared to

you to be a simple case; to me it seems exceedingly complex. Consider what is

involved by your theory. You suppose that your son came down from his bed, went, at great risk, to your dressing-

room, opened your bureau, took out your coronet, broke off by main force a

small portion of it, went off to some other place, concealed three gems out of the thirty-nine with such skill that

nobody can find them, and then re-turned with the other thirty-six into the

room, in which he exposed himself to the greatest danger of being discov-ered. I ask you now, is such a theory

But what other is there?" cried the

My friend insisted upon my accom-panying them in their expedition, which

I was eager enough to do, for my curiosity and sympathy were deeply stirred by the story to which we had listened.

I confess that the guilt of the banker's son appeared to me to be as obvious as it did to his unhappy father, but still I had such faith in Holmes' judgment that I felt that there must be some

desultory chat with me over his bus-

Fairbank was a good-sized square

Her lips, too, were

greater sense of grief than the banker had done in the morning, and it was

the more striking in her as she was

'No. no, my girl; the matter must be

Why is he silent, then, if he is in

'Who knows?' Perhaps because he

"How could I help suspecting him

"Oh, but he had only picked it up to

"I shall never let it drop until the

rom hushing the thing up. I have

gems are found-never, Mary! Ye affection for Arthur blinds you as

he awful consequences to me.

was so angry that you should suspect

woman's face.

banker, with a gesture of despair.

are thirty-nine enormous beryls,' said he, 'and the price of the gold chasing is incalculable. The lowest estimate would put the worth of the coronet at double the sum which I have asked. I am prepared to leave it with you as my security.'

"Oh, any old key will fit that be reau. When I was a youngster I have opened it myself with the key of the box-room cupboard.'

"He often had a wild way of talking, so that I thought little of what he said. He followed me to my room, who had stood sullenly with his arms folded, asked me whether it was my intention to charge him with theft. I



"At My Cry He Dropped It from His Grasp and Turned Pale as Death."

"When he was gone I unlocked my bureau, made sure that my treasure was safe and locked it again. Then I

started to go round the house to see that all was secure—a duty which I usually leave to Mary, but which I thought it well to perform myself that shall be forgiven and forgotten." shall be forgiven and forgotten." "Keep your forgiveness for thought it well to perform myseif that night. As I came down the stairs I saw Mary herself at the side window of the hall, which she closed and fastened as I approached.

"Tell me, dad, said she, looking, I thought, a little disturbed, 'did you give Lucy, the maid, leave to go out touch the stairs of the same that he was too hardened for any words of mine to influence him. There was but one way for it. I called in the inspector, and gave him into custody. A coarch was made at once not only of

morning, or I will, if you prefer it. Are you sure that everything is fastened?"

"Then, good night.' I kissed her, and went up to my bedroom again, where I was soon asleep.
"I am endeavoring to tell you everything, Mr. Holmes, which may have any bearing upon the case, but I beg that you will question me upon any point which I do not make clear." "On the contrary, your statement is singularly lucid."

"I come to a part of my story now in I am not a very heavy sleeper usual. About 2 in the morning, then, nouse. It had ceased ere I was wide awake, but it had left an impression behind it as though a window had gently closed somewhere, I lay gently closed somewhere, I lay listening with all my ears. Suddenly to my horror, there was a distinct to my horror, there was a distinct sound of footsteps moving softly in the next room. I slipped out of bed, all paloitating with fear, and peeped

'Arthur!' I screamed, 'you villain you thief! How dare you touch that

"The gas .was half up, as I had left it, and my unhappy boy, dressed only in his shirt and trousers, was stand-ing beside the light, holding the ronet in his hands. He appeared to wrenching at it, or bending it with all his strength. At my cry he dropped it from his grasp and turned as pale as death. I snatched it up and examined it. One of the gold corners with three of the beryls in it, was mis-

You blackguard!' I shouted, be side myself with, rage. You have dishonored "'Stolen!' he cried.
"'Yes, you thief!' I roared, shaking

"'Yes, you thief!' I roared, shaking him by the shoulder.
"'There are none missing. There cannot be any missing,' said he.
"'There are three missing. And you know where they are, Must I call you a liar as well as a thief? Did I not "God bless you! You are doing what you can for him and for me. But it is too heavy a task. What was he doing there at all? If his purpose was innocent, why did he not say so?"
"Precisely. And if it were guilty, why did he not invent a lie?" His sli-

eyes cast down, 'can you let me have £200?'

"No, I cannot!' I answered, sharply.'

Thave been far too generous with you in money matters.'

"You have been very kind,' said he: 'you will not from the door one that the law should have its should return. We were sitting there should return. We were sitting there when the door one had no shoes or slippers on when you saw him?"

"'You have been very kind,' said he; "'At least,' said he, 'you will not have me arrested at once, It would be to your advantage as well as mine if I might leave the house for five minutes.'

"'At least,' said he, 'you will not have me arrested at once, It would be to your advantage as well as mine if I might leave the house for five minutes.'

"'He had nothing trousers and shirt.' "Thank you. V dark hair and eyes, which seemed the darker against the absolute pallor of been favored with inquiry our per-

"Yes, but you would not have me leave it a dishonored man," said he. 'I could not bear the disgrace. I must raise the money in some way, and if you will not let me have it then I must try other means it works."

evidently a woman of strong character, with immense capacity for self-"'You may as well face the matter, said I; 'you have been caught in the act, and no confession could make your guilt more heinous. If you but make such reparation as is in your power, by telling us where the beryls are, all

"She came in just now by the back door. I have no doubt that she has only been to the side gate to see some one; but I think that it is hardly safe, one; but I think that it is hardly safe, one threats. This morning he was a sound one threats. 'You must spead'
'You must speak to her in the raining, or I will, if you prefer it. Are a sure that everything is fastened?'
'Quite sure. dad.'
'Then, good night.' I kissed her, good night.' I kissed her, matter. The police have onenly construction. The police have openly fessed that they can at present make nothing of it. You may go to any expense which you think necessary. have already offered a reward £1,000. My God. what shall I do! have lost my honor, my gems and my son in one night. Oh, what shall I

He put a hand on either side of his

"Do you receive much company?" he family, and an occasional friend of Arthur's. Sir George Burnwell has been several times lately. No one else,

"Do you go out much in society?"
"Arthur does. Mary and I stay at me. We neither of us care for it." That is unusual in a young girl." "She is of a quiet nature. Besid

"This matter, from what you say, seems to have been a shock to her "Terrible! She is even more affected

"You have neither of you any doubt as to your son's guilt?"
"How can we have, when I saw him with my own eyes with the coronet in "I hardly consider that a conclusive roof. Was the remainder of the coro-

net at all injured?"
"Yes, it was twisted."
"Do you not think, then, that he

"God bless you! You are doing what

must try other means.'

"I was very angry, for this was the third demand during the month. You shall not have a farthing from me.' I cried; on which he bowed and left the room without another word.

"When he was gone I unlocked my "You may a very life that the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the three missing stopes."

"When he was gone I unlocked my "You may a very life to that it hat that I was at stake; and that he threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the three missing stopes."

"You may a very life that I was at stake; and that he threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the scandal which would convulse the would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the scandal which would but tell me what he had done with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the scandal which would be with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the scandal which would be with the threatened to raise a scandal which would convulse the scandal which would be with the threatened to raise a scandal which would be with the threatened to raise a scandal wh

restraint. Disregarding my presence passed her hand over his head with a should be liberated, have you not,

nead, and rocked himself to and fro, droning to himself like a child whose few minutes, with his brows knitted

The stable lane!" She raised her dark eyebrows. "What can he hope to find there? Ah, this, I suppose, is he. I trust, sir, that you will succeed in proving, what I feel sure is the truth, that my cousin Arthur is innocent of this crime.

"I fully share your opinion, and trust, with you, that we may prove it, ing Miss Mary Holder. Might I ask you a question or two?"

u a question or two?"
'Pray do, sir, if it may help to clear this horrible affair up. You heard nothing yourself last "Nothing, until my uncle here began to speak loudly. I heard that, and I

"You shut up the windows and doors the night before. Did you fasten all the windows?"

"Were they all fastened this morn-

heart? I think that you remarked to your uncle last night that she had been out to see him? "Yes, and she was the girl who waited in the drawing room, and who may have heard uncle's remarks about

gone out to tell her sweetheart, and that the two may have planned the "But what is the good of all these

the case. What did the police think of patiently, "when I have told you that the house. It is a very sweet little the noise which awoke you from your I saw Arthur with the coronet in his problem, and I would not have missed

sleep?"

"They considered that it might be caused by Arthur closing his bedroom door."

"A likely story! As if a man bent on felony would slam his door so as to wake a household. What did they say, then, of the disappearance of the library of the disappearance of the library is a saw Arthur with the coronet in his problem, and I would not have missed it for a good deal. However, I must not sit gossiping here, but must get these disreputable clothes off and return to my highly respectable seif."

I could see by his manner that he had stronger reasons for satisfaction than his words alone would imply. His eyes twinkled and there was even a touch

"Oh, yes; he is the green grocer who brings our vegetables round. His name is Francis Prosper."
"He stood," said Holmes, "to the left of the door—that is to say, further up the stood of the say of t

smiled, but there was no answering smile in Holmes' thin, eager face.
"I should be very glad now to go upstairs," said he. "I shall probably wish to go over the outside of the house again. Perhaps I had better take a look at the lower windows be-

fore I go up.' He walked swiftly round from one to the other, pausing only at the large one which looked from the hall onto the stable lane. This he opened, and made a very careful examination of the sill with his powerful magnifying lens. 'Now we shall go upstairs," said he

his motives were innocent, why does he not explain them?" The banker's dressing room was a "It is our task to find that out," replied Holmes; "so now, if you please, Mr. Holder, we will set off for Streaplainly furnished little chamber, with a gray carpet, a large bureau and a long mirror. Holmes went to the bu-reau first and looked hard at the lock. tham together and devote an hour to glancing a little more closely into de-"Which key was used to open it?"

"That which my son himself indicated-that of the cupboard of the lumber room."

"Have you it here?"
"That is it on the dressing table."
Sherlock Holmes took it up and

opened the bureau. "It is a noiseless lock," said he. "It "It is a noiseless lock," said he. "It is no wonder that it did not wake you. This case, I presume, contains the coronet. We must have a look at it." He opened the case and, taking out the diadem, laid it upon the table. It was a magnificent specimen of the jeweler's art, and the thirty-six stones were the spect that I have ever some that I felt that there must be some grounds for hope as long as he was dissatisfied with the accepted explanation. He hardly spoke a word the whole way out to the southern suburb, but sat with his chin upon his breast and his hat drawn over his eyes, sunk in the deepest thought. Our client appeared to have taken fresh heart at the little glimpse of hope which had been prewere the finest that I have ever seen. At one side of the coronet was a

cracked edge, where a corner holding three gems had been torn away.

"Now, Mr. Holder," said Holmes, "here is the corner which corresponds to that which has been so unfortuglimpse of hope which had been pre-sented to him, and he even broke into iness affairs. A short railway journey and a shorter walk brought us to Fairnately lost. Might I beg that you will break it off?" bank, the modest residence of the great The banker recoiled in horro.

should not dream of trying," he said.
"Then I will." Holmes suddenly bent house of white stone, standing back a little from the road. A double carriage his strength upon it, but without result. "I feel it give a little," said he: "but, though I am exceptionally strong in the fingers, it would take me sweep, with a snow-clad lawn, stretched down in front to two large iron gates which closed the entrance. on the right side was a small wooden thicket, which led into a narrow path between two neat hedges stretching from the road to the kitchen door and forming the tradesmen's entrance. On the left ran a lane which led to the stables, and was not itself within the grounds at all, being a public, though little used, thoroughfare. Holmes left us standing at the door and walked slowly all round the house, across the front, down the tradesmen's path, and

in silence when the door opened and a on when you saw him?"

"He had nothing on save only his "Thank you. We have certainly been favored with extraordinary luck during this inquiry, and it will be enceed in clearing the matter up. permission, Mr. Holder, I shall

bloodless, but her eyes were flushed with crying. As she swept silently into now the room she impressed me with a side. now continue my investigations out-He went alone, at his own request for he explained that any unnecessary footmarks might make his task more difficult. For an hour or more he was at work, returning at last with his feet heavy with snow and his features as

inscrutable as ever.
"I think that I have seen now all that there is to see, Mr. Holder," said "I can serve you best by return-"But the gems, Mr. Holmes. Where are they?"

cannot tell." The banker wrung his hands. shall never see them again!" he cried 'And my son? You give me hopes?" know that he has done no harm and "My opinion is in no way altered." "Then, for God's sake, what was this

dark business which was acted in my

"If you can call upon me at my Baker street rooms tomorrow morning between 9 and 10 I shall be happy to do what I can to make it clearer. understand that you give me blanche to act for you, provided only for it that he is innocent. Let the matter drop and say no more. It is so dreadful to think of our dear Arthur "I would give my fortune to have

"I would give my fortune to have them back.' "Very good. I shall look into the matter between this and then. Goodbye; it is just possible that I may have to come over here again before It was obvious to me that my com-

brought a gentleman down from Lon-don to inquire more deeply into it." panion's mind was now made up about the case, although what his conclu-sions were was more than I could even "This gentleman?" she asked, facing dimly imagine. Several times during leave him alone. He is round in the our homeward journey I endeavored to sound him upon the point, but he always glided away to some other topic, until at last I gave it over in despair. It was not yet 5 when we He hurried to his chamber, and was down again in a few minutes dressed as a common loafer. With his collar returned Holmes, going back to the mat to knock the snow from his shoes.
"I believe I have the honor of addressing Miss Mary Holder. Might I

he, glancing into the glass above the fireplace. "I only wish that you could come with me, Watson, but I fear it won't do. I may be on the trail in this matter, or I may be following a will-of-the-wisp: but I shall soon know which it is. I hope that I may be back in a few hours." He cut a slice of beef from the joint on the side board, sandwiched it betweeen two rounds of bread and, thrusting his rude upon his expedition.

I had just finished my tea when he returned, evidently in excellent spirits, swinging an old elastic-sided boot in his hand. He chucked it down into a corner and helped himself to a cup

"Where to?"

"Oh, to the other side of the west e coronet."

end. It may be some time before get back. Don't wait up for me in case

should be late."
"How are you getting on?"
"Oh, so so. Nothing to complain of. I have been out to Streatham since

her slipping in. I saw the man, too, twinkled and there was even a touch in the gloom."

"Do you know him?"

twinkled and there was even a touch of color upon his sallow cheeks. He hastened upstairs, and a few minutes of color upon his sallow cheeks. He hastened upstairs, and a few minutes

"Yes, they have shown extraordinary energy. The whole garden has already been minutely examined."

"He stood, early the stood, for the door—that is to say, further up was no sign of his return, so of the door—that is to say, further up was no sign of his return, so of the door—that is to say, further up was no sign of his return, so of the door—that is necessary to reach the path than is necessary to reach thing for him to be away for days and nights on end when he was hot upon nights on end when he was hot upon "Yes, he did."
"And he is a man with a wooden a scent, so that his lateness caused me Something like fear sprang up in the young lady's expressive black eyes. "Why, you are like a magician," said she. "How do you know that?" She smiled, but there was no answering fresh and trim as possible.

"You will excuse my beginning with-out you, Watson," said he; "but you remember that our client has rather an early appointment this morning."
"Why, it is after 9 now," I answered. "I should not be surprised if that were he. I thought I heard a ring."

It was, indeed, our friend the finan-cier. I was shocked by the change which had come over him, for his face, which was naturally of a broad and massive mould, was now pinched and fallen in, while his hair seemed to me at least a shade whiter. He entered with a weariness and lethargy which was even more painful than his lence of the morning before, and he dropped heavily into the armchair which I pushed forward for him.

"I do not know what I have done to be so severely tried," said he. "Only two days ago I was a happy and prosperous man, without a care in the world. Now I am left to a lonely and dishoured. dishonored age. One sorrow comes close upon the heels of another, My

niece Mary has deserted me."
"Deserted you?"
"Yes. Her bed this morning had not been slept in, her room was empty, and a note for me lay upon the hall table. I had said to her last night, in sorrow and not in anger, that if she had married my boy all might have been well with him. Perhaps it was thoughtless of me to say so. It is to that remark that she refers in this

"'My Dearest Uncle-I feel that I have brought trouble upon you, and that if I had acted differently this ter-rible misfortune might never have occurred. I cannot, with this thought upon my mind, ever again be happy under your roof, and I feel that I must leave your foot, and I feel that I must leave you forever. Do not worry about my future, for that is provided for; and, above all, do not search for me, for it will be fruitless labor and an ill-service to me. In life or in death, I am ever your loving MARY.

"What could she mean by that note, Mr. Holmes. Do you think it points to suicide?" "No, no, nothing of the kind. It is perhaps the best possible solution. I trust, Mr. Holder, that you are nearing

the end of your troubles."

"Ha! You say so! You have heard something, Mr. Holmes; you have learned something! Where are the

"You would not think £1,000 apiece "I would pay ten.

That would be unnecessary. Thre thousand will cover the matter. And there is a little reward, I fancy. Have you your check book? Here is a pen. Better make it out for £4,000."
With a dazed face the banker made out the required check. Holmes walked over to his desk, took out a little triangular piece of gold with three gems it, and threw it down upon

With a shriek of joy our client "You have it!" he gasped. "I am saved! I am saved!"

The reaction of joy was as passion-

ate as his grief had been, hugged his recovered gems to his "There is one other thing you owe,

Mr. Holder. said Sherlock Holmes, rather sternly.
"Owe!" He caught up a
"Name the sum and I will pay it. He caught up a pen. "No, the debt is not to me. You owe a very humble apology to that noble lad, your son, who has carried himself in this matter as I should be

"Then it was not Arthur who took "I told you yesterday, and I repeat today, that it was not." hurry to him at once, to let him know

proud to see my own son do, should I

that the truth is known.' "He knows it already. When I had cleared it all up I had an interview with him, and, gnding that he would not tell me the story, I told it to him. on which he had to confess that I was right, and to add the very few details which were not yet quite Your news of this morning, however, may open his lips."
"For heaven's sake, tell me, then,

what is this extraordinary mystery?"
"I will do so, and I will show you
the steps by which I reached it. As let me say to you, first, that which it is hardest for me to say and for you to hear, there has been an understand-ing between Sir George Burnwell and your niece Mary. They have now fled

'My Mary? Impossible!" "It is, unfortunately, more than possible; it is certain. Neither you nor your son knew the true character of this man when you admitted him into your family circle. He is one of the most dangerous men in England—a ruined gambler, an absolutely desperate villain, a man without heart or conscience. Your niece knew nothing of such men. When he breathed his vows to her, as he had done to a hundred before her, she flattered herself that she alone had touched his heart. The devil knows best what he said. was in the habit of seeing him nearly

every evening."
"I cannot, and I will not believe it!" cried the banker, with an ashen face.
"I will tell you, then, what occurred at your house last night. Your niece, when you had, as she thought, gone to your room, slipped down and to her lover through the window which leads into the stable lane. His foot-marks had pressed right through the snow, so long had he stood there. She told him of the coronet. His wicked lust for gold kindled at the news, and he bent her to his will. I have no doubt that she loved you, but there are women in whom the love of a lover extinguishes all other loves, and I think that she must have been one. She had she saw you coming downstairs, which she closed the window rapidly and told you about one of the servant's escapade with her wooden-legged lover, which was all perfectly true.

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